

The major reasons for closing these coal mines, were as follows:—

- (i) exhaustion of resources;
- (ii) adverse geo-mining conditions;
- (iii) incidents of fire;
- (iv) unsafe mining conditions;
- (v) inundation;
- (vi) general techno-economic unviability.

It will not be possible to re-open the closed mines for the reasons stated above. Therefore, the question of viability/non-viability of these mines does not arise. Consequently, there is no plan formulated by the Government to make these closed mines viable.

Storage of weapons and supplies in Ordnance Depots

2713. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: WiU the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether CAG has commented on the storehouse of all weapons and supplies, as weapons gather dust in the open in Ordnance Depots;
- (b) whether space in Central Ordnance Depots is not being properly used; and
- (c) the action taken to streamline the functioning Ordnance Depots?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in his report on "Review of Inventory Management in Ordnance Services" published under reference of Union Government (Defence Services) No. 7A of 2000, had observed that stores weighing over 30,000 tonnes valued at over Rs. 150 crores were lying in the open in five Central Ordnance Depots assessed by the CAG.

[21 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

As per the procedure in vogue, stores initially received in the Depots are inspected, accounted for and subsequently stored in sheds. This being an ongoing process, a percentage of serviceable inventory, therefore will be lying in the open at any given time for a prescribed and limited period.

Instructions have been issued to all concerned to ensure storage of serviceable inventory in covered accommodation.

To streamline the functioning of Ordnance Depots, it has been decided to modernise all the seven Central Depots in phases.

Vanishing of gun spares from Jabalpur

† 2714. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spare parts of guns have vanished from armament store situated in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step so far to find out the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Preliminary inquiry conducted by Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur has revealed loss of Ordnance Stores made of brass weighing approximately 989 Kg and worth about Rs. 17.40 lakh.

(c) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by Headquarters Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa area.

Production of Agni-2 Missiles

† 2715. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started the production of Agni-2 missiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.